

THE ADVENTURES OF JOSHER BLUFFEM

The Story of the Eminent Explorer

The Eminent Explorer was at home, attired in the negligee of the man who likes his comfort, when I called in answer to an urgent summons I had received from him. He met me at the door with much cordiality and a fat cigar and drew me within as he shook hands heartily.

"Awfully glad to see you, Mr. Bluffem," he said. "I need you in my business."

"Ah, yes," I replied doubtfully, "and what might be your business?"

"Well, whatever it is, it's my own," he answered with some slight show of asperity. "But being that it's your, I'll tell you. It's running for Mayor."

"At other times I'm an Explorer, an Eminent Explorer, I might say."

"What did you just say?" I inquired.

"Because I've explored almost everything there is to explore and now, with Solomon, I can say there's no more thing under the sun. But take a seat and a cigar and I'll tell you what I want of you."

I did as I was requested and after the Eminent Explorer had removed his coat and his shoes to make himself thoroughly comfortable, ran his finger around the inside of the soft cloth and in place of a collar, and shifted his cigar to the other side of his face so he could see me better, he began:

"As I told you before," he said, "I'm running for Mayor. And I expect to win. In fact, I'm certain to win. But your true politician, you know, never neglects any opportunities, and you strike me as an opportunity."

"I've been called lots of other things," I interrupted, "but that's a new one."

He treated my irrelevant remark with slight contempt and puffed smokily at his cigar for a full minute before continuing.

"I read that puff you gave Jack Lucas last week," he said at last, "how much did he pay you for it?"

I refused to answer, on professional grounds, stating that Lucas has particularly requested that I keep the price secret.

"Well, that's all right," said the Eminent Explorer. "But I guess I can afford to do as well as Parnell Jack. He thinks he's going to beat me out on the mayoralty, but I'll show him a thing or two before the campaign is over. Why, Jack can't run, anyway. His legs are too short."

I glanced at the neither extremities of the Eminent Explorer, which are not as long as they might be.

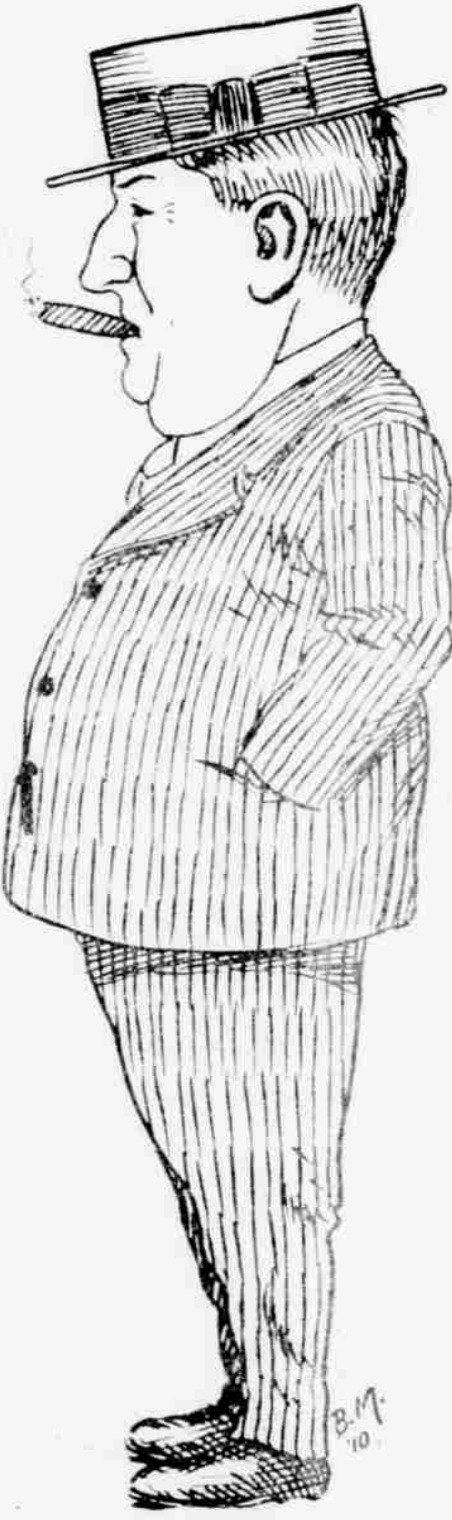
"Never you mind about the length of my legs," he grunted. They have been good enough to carry me on my adventures trips and I guess they can carry me to the City Hall all right. Now I'll tell you what I want. I need campaign material and I want you to write the story of my life and adventures and I can't win on that, it'll be the talk of the voters. And I sent for you because I want somebody who won't consider it necessary to allow himself to be hampered by facts."

With a sigh of resignation I settled myself to listen to the sad, sweet story of his life.

Cocking his feet gracefully on the keyboard of the piano, he began:

"I was born when I was very young, quite a child in fact. I'll not tell you when that was, for you might publish the date and spoil my chances with the ladies—you know I am still single, having all my life been too popular to get married. I always hated to think of the pain my marriage would give the girls who couldn't marry me."

"As you may have surmised, I grew up, honest though poor—I am not as poor now as I used to be. When I was still a young boy a banker saw me carefully pick up a pin on the street and he was so impressed with my



apparent economy that he took me into the bank. I started at the top and gradually worked down until, when I finally retired a short time ago, there appeared a good chance of my becoming janitor if I would only stay long enough.

"But I refused to stay, for I still had my lifework to do, and besides, I wanted to be mayor. So I resigned and gave Abe Lewis a chance to earn an honest living. Abe used to be a lawyer, you know, but he reformed and went into the bank. He says he can't notice the difference."

"I have always been of an adventurous and roving disposition and it took a good deal of self-restraint for me to stick to the dry routine of business during the years that I was engaged in laying by provision against a rainy day and a fund from which to finance my exploring expeditions. But, remembering my youthful motto of 'upward and onward' and the books I used to read on 'how to be happy though rich,' I stuck to it until I was old enough to be allowed out at night without a chaperon. Then my restless disposition asserted itself."

"One day, without saying anything to anybody except some of my friends and acquaintances and a few newspaper reporters, I started out fearlessly into the unknown. I went toward the east—because, on account of the sea and my inability to swim, I could not go west. At first as I proceeded on my way I passed through familiar surroundings. But as I penetrated farther into the east toward the upper end of Nuuanu avenue, I found myself in a strange and unexplored country. But I guided myself by my faithful compass and advanced without a quiver of fear until even the sound of the street car bells died out and fearful mountains rose about me."

"I realized that at any moment I might be attacked by the natives of that strange country or by fierce wild animals, but my courage was high and I did not falter or turn back as a man of less natural bravery would have done. No, I advanced—straight into the very heart of the Unknown. I was alone, except for four or five trusty comrades, but I was without fear."

"As I went on, the country became wilder and more forbidding, the mountains higher, and aspect of nature more threatening. But, as I say, I advanced. And at last I had my reward. I stood where never had I stood before."

"It was a most stupendous spectacle. I had arrived at the middle of the world; I stood upon the very pinnacle of the earth. You will not believe it when I tell you—nobody does—but the earth is as big on the other side as it is on this side!"

The narrator paused in eloquent silence for several minutes before resuming his tale of thrilling adventure.

"I will not attempt," he said, "to describe my sensations as I stood at the top of the Ball and looked down at the world spread out at my feet. Suffice it to say that I was astounded. I had never supposed that the world is so big."

"But I am a courageous man and nothing can frighten me for long. I recovered my breath and my spirits in the end and bade my attendants take heart and be glad, for we had explored ourselves in the book of fate."

"I will make no effort to tell of my perilous adventures in returning to the civilization of Honolulu. It is enough to state that we returned without the loss of a man. But, strange to say, the people of Honolulu would not believe my story. I was in the same position as Captain Cook. Nobody believes his story; nobody believes mine. For that reason I have a large amount of sympathy for him. I feel that he is grossly misunderstood."

"That expedition was only my first and it but whetted my appetite for venturing into the great Unknown. A short time later I organized another, my plan being to penetrate farther and into the wilderness that lies beyond the rim of the earth. I know you will not believe it, but I accomplished the world—that is, I was entirely around it, though no day had. Notwithstanding standing world-hatreds, I not only returned to the edge of the world where I first stood on the former expedition, but I also came on the other side. I discovered new and hitherto unknown continents—Kamohi, Haula, Wai-lana and other places bearing the same names as those of the Hawaiian Islands. Continuing my life was no longer a danger. I suffered terrible deprivations. You may not believe me, but I could not see my people again in some of the places I visited. But I could not see my people again, and at last I returned home, covered with bruises and grief."

"I have been feeling since then, but only in preparation for my next expedition. See here—"

The Eminent Explorer unfolded a huge map. "This is a map of the known world. There is Honolulu in the center, and here," he pointed to a spot on the horizon, "is the edge of the world. Beyond is a country through which I must pass before I can get to the edge of the world. And beyond that is the end of the world. There is a sixth that far beyond the sun that marks its boundary is a country called Sam Parnell. Many people believe that such a place really exists, but there are some people who thought not long ago that Haula's coast was going to destroy Honolulu."

"But down here at the southern edge of the world is said to exist a country called Menti. It is believed that a country of that name has actually been discovered, and I am rather inclined to believe that some of the accounts may have found it. But of that I am not sure. But"—and the Eminent Explorer struck an attitude and assumed a look of indelible courage—"some day I am going to lead an expedition into the southern unknown and find out for myself."

I was too astonished to say anything, and the Eminent Explorer looked gratified and tried to look modest.

"However," he said, "I am not going to do that until I shall have served at least one term as mayor, for, to tell the truth, I need the money. So do the other candidates, but that doesn't make any difference. We all need it, and the best man wins. So you may as well congratulate me now."

"But, as I told you at the start, I want you to write the story of my life, so the dear voters will know how great a man they are electing to advise. When they realize that I am the most eminent explorer in the world, I am sure they will all vote for me several times."

"Of course, Jack Lucas and John Lane and Jim Quinn are all good enough fellows—in their own ways—but they are hardly mayoral material. I am sorry for them, but they can't win. When you tell the story of my life, I am sure I'll have the job clinched. So do your worst and don't hesitate too long if you are not sure of your facts. Just go ahead and tell a good story, anyway."

I'll leave it to the long suffering public as to whether or not I have obeyed the injunction of Our Next Mayor—maybe—Charlie Hustace.

city and county officials, I shall throw up my hands, and notwithstanding the fact that I sincerely desire the ambitions of the head of the house to be gratified, pass the buck up to him. He may send the mayor where he pleases. Dan Logan may discourse and consume his soup and fish courses from any part of the table, and I will care not. Jim Quinn may talk about Irish feasts and dishes and hulas from the head or the foot or the side of the banquet board, and again will I care not. In short, I shall not undertake to look after precedence in county affairs, and if my negligence shall result in the total defeat of the ambitions in question, perhaps I shall be happier than should they be successful. As long as I have seen to it that the cook has done his duty, and there is enough to eat and enough to drink and enough to smoke, I will feel that my duty has been done.

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A NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITY.

They do say that if you could detach the tail of the comet, and hog-tie it, and dissect it, and put it in parcels, so dimsy is it that a room fourteen by fourteen by fourteen would hold it and still have room left for mosquitoes.

And still farther do they say that not the slightest pilikia would occur to us inhabitants of the earth—maybe in this instance it should be spelled with a large "E"—should we pass through that self-same tail. Either Kahu's first speech on prohibition, or Lank's first breach of the rules concerning discreet silence will, it is said, create more disturbance.

But its appearance over College Hills afforded a glorious opportunity which, sad to relate, was wholly and utterly neglected. If ever a dressmaker or dry goods store had a chance to grow rich, it was by making and advertising a comet costume. I verily believe we women would have gone miles, and, if necessary, pilfered money, to have secured it. "When viewing the heavenly visitor, wear one of our comet costumes," Mr. Halley likes to see women well dressed, and other like catch phrases judiciously displayed through the advertising columns of the newspapers, would have caught all of us.

But no edict was handed down, and the proper style for four o'clock in the morning has not even yet been determined. Some of us adopted the kimono as correct, but the mornings have been windy, and electric lights and men numerous, with results not to be mentioned, save that it was clearly demonstrated that the dap costume is a mighty good one to wear in the house. A few of us tried to establish the bath robe as the only proper attire to don. But when the wind didn't blow the graceful outlines of our figures could not be seen, and when it did, the words "outline of our" and "not" would have to be eliminated.

The only approach there appeared to be to unanimity was that no glad rags should be worn. If you were a tailor made gown on any of your investigating tours, you were promptly marked down by the rest of us as not being stylish. If you wore stockings, you were promptly marked down by the rest of us as being overdressed. If you wore a corset, and the time taken to adjust it didn't make you miss an inspection of the top heavy star, you were promptly marked down by us as dowdy.

Of course, as to the men, they are privileged characters, concerning whom criticism is strictly prohibited. They were entitled to, and did wear what ever they pleased at the reception given every seven or five years. Sometimes it was pajamas, sometimes it wasn't. Sometimes it was numerous orientals it wasn't. Always, however, scanty or profuse, baby blue or purple, loose flowing or tight fitting, ostentatiously displayed under the electric lights or modestly concealed behind an algaroba tree, the costume was good form.

And should I be alive, or reincarnated when we are next honored by a visit from the tail-supporting asteroid, I am going to gain wealth and fame by manufacturing and disposing of some kind of a gown which will permit us to be brief in arriving ourselves, modest in appearance, comfortable to wear and not amenable to the tricks of the trade winds.

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GET RICH QUICK.

Many times hath sidelights had occasion to call attention to the fact that

KANIHO HAS VERY WARM EVENING

(Continued from Page One.)

occasions there were three speaking at once from the little platform. Desha, making his address, Kanoho loudly protesting and answering, and Chairman Kabanokalani telling Kanoho to sit down and appealing to the crowd for order.

Desha praised Kanoho for the record he had made. He became bitterly personal at times, and was terribly severe in his comments on both Kanoho and McCandless. Kanoho's interruptions were constant. He was compared by Desha to a jumping jack, who worked when strings were pulled, and Desha gave a wonderful stage imitation of the motions of that interesting toy, while the crowd howled. It seemed to Kanoho, beyond endurance, and there was another three-cornered shouting match, with the chairman trying to make Kanoho sit down.

Desha made a good deal of a rare appeal, telling Hawaiians of what Kanoho had done to foster respect for their race in Washington, and advising those present to see to it that they continued to show the people of America that they had a Hawaiian fit to represent them in congress.

"Who didn't you vote for Nalley?" shouted Kanoho.

"Whoever I have the power to vote for," was Desha's answer, and the crowd applauded.

Desha said that Kanoho had recently bought a piece of land in Koloa for a thousand dollars, and had immediately removed a thousand dollars on it from McCandless. He said it was a queer kind of a mortgage, being for the full value of the land. Kanoho's running fee of expenditures were to the effect that it didn't matter if he did get a thousand dollars. At the close of Desha's speech Kanoho rose and tried to speak, but the crowd would not have him.

"Bill!" White soon had Kanoho shouting worse than ever. He began to playfully reminding that he was a Home Ruler and had come after the party's last speech. He told Kanoho to remember the fact, "You're back, you're back, and all well be forgotten," said White. Kanoho, who was a member of the crowd, and he talked almost constantly. White showed consummate skill as a speaker, and the meeting was almost in an uproar during much of his speech. Kanoho threw all etiquette to the winds and shouted all the interruptions he could think of, and his followers in the crowd took the same liberty.

White repeated the thousand dollar proposition, and repeated a remark of Kanoho's in admiring the change, and saying that it was all right if he did get a thousand dollars for "the King's Bill" to McCandless. White said he was going to stay by his candidate to the last ditch and would not betray him as Kanoho had betrayed Nalley. Then he turned some sarcasm on the exasperated Kanoho and as a sort of climax, while Kanoho was protesting with all the force of his far famed Kaniha lungs, White led three cheers for the defeat of Kanoho for the next house in the next legislative campaign.

The crowd cheered and Kanoho sat and glared, while White laughed. It was great sport for the audience and for White, but Kanoho looked only as pleased as a wet hen.

"Don't think that I won't answer you," he kept shouting. Several Hawaiians in the rear of the crowd yelled "Polohi Kanoho." Otly Bill smiled and put a bit more salt in Kanoho's open sores. He read him out of the Home Rule party and smiled some more when Kanoho yelled his protestations.

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